

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NSCE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /084 W

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R 220735Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4652

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4288

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, PK

SUBJECT: PRC VICE PREMIER VISITS PAKISTAN

REF: HONG KONG 4271 NOTAL, HONG KONG 4424, PEKING 743

1. SUMMARY: THE RATHER ABRUPT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THIRD-RANKING PRC VICE PREMIER (AND ECONOMIC SPECIALIST) LI HSIEN-NIEN WOULD VISIT PAKISTAN JUST SIX DAYS AFTER LI'S RETURN FROM AN OFFICIAL TRIP TO TEHRAN SUGGESTS THAT THE PAKISTANIS MAY HAVE PRESSED FOR THE VISIT. KI'S BANQUET SPEECH STRESSED THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ASIA'S DIFFICULTIES AND PROVIDED AN INTERESTING VARIANT ON THE CHINESE CONSIDERATION OF THE THREAT OF WAR (REFTEL). OBVIOUSLY, SOUTH ASIA IS HIGH ON THE AGENDA, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT WILL BE THE OVERALL SITUATION IN ASIA WHICH HAS DEVELOPED SO REPIDLY IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF LI HSIEN-NINE'S VISIT TO RAWALPINDI COMING JUST SIX DAYS AFTER HIS RETURN FROM TEHRAN IS REMINISCENT OF JUNE 1973 WHEN THE PRC FOUNDER CHI PENG-FEI SUDDENLY INCLUDED PAKISTAN AT THE END OF A FOUR-NATION VISIT WHILE HE WAS IN TEHRAN, PRESUMABLY ON HIS WAY HOME. THE ABRUPTNESS OF LI'S DEPARTURE FOR RAWALPINDI THIS YEAR COULD INDICATE THAT THE PAKISTANIS PRESSED THE PRC FOR THE VISIT, PARTICULARLY SINCE CHINESE VICE PREMIERS HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE THUS FAR IN 1975 WITH VISITS TO MEXICO, IRAN, AND NEPAL, AS WELL AS A STOPOVER IN ROMANIA. HIGH-RANKING PRC VISITORS TO PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN FEW (OUR RECORDS INDICATE THE LAST MAJOR VISITS WERE IN 1966 WITH FIRST THE NOW-DISGRACED LIU SHAO-CHI AND LATER PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI) AND LI INDICATED (PERHAPS IN APOLOGY FOR NOT HAVING COME EARLIER) AT HIS WELCOMING CEREMONY IN RAWALPINDI THAT BHUTTO HAD VISITED CHINA SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT YEARS.

3. DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA CERTAINLY ARE A MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. IN HIS APR 20 BANQUET SPEECH, LI POINTED OUT THAT THE DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN BY "THE SUPERPOWER AND THE EXPANSIONISTS" HAD MADE THE PAKISTANIS "MORE DETERMINED THAN EVERY TO FIGHT AGAINST HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM." HE THEN CAREFULLY OUTLINED THAT THE "CHINESE PEOPLE AND GOVT HAVE ALWAYS CHERISHED FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES IN IN SOUTH ASIA" AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, "THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE", THEIR PROBLEMS WOULD BE WORKED OUT. LI, HOWEVER, INCLUDED A FEW JABS AT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT BY PROMISING "RESOLUTE SUPPORT" FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR AND FOR SIKKIMESE RESISTANCE AGAINST "THE NAKED ANNEXATION BY THE INDIAN EXPANSIONISTS".

4. LI'S OTHER MAIN POINTS WERE ESSENTIALLY THIRD WORLD RHETORIC AND, IN PLAYING TO THIS AUDIENCE, HE PROVIDED A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE FROM FELLOW VICE PREMIER CHI TENG-KUEI (WHO WAS SPEAKING AT A BANQUET IN PEKING HONORING THE VISITING BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER) ON THE CHINESE VIEW OF THE DANGER OF WAR (REFTEL). LI'S LESS CLEAR-CUT STATEMENT ON THE WAR DANGER, COUPLED WITH HIS STRESS ON PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ASIA'S PROBLEMS, SUGGESTS THAT PEKING IS ATTEMPTING TO STEP IN QUICKLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION TO ASSURE THAT THE DANGER OF

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WAR, AT LEAST CLOSE TO CHINA'S BORDERS, IS NOT OVERSTATED. THIS SAME THEME WAS HEAVILY HAMMERED HOME BY SENIOR PRC VICE PREMIER KTENG HSIAO-PING IN HIS BANQUET TOAST TO NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG (PEKING 743 AND HONG KONG 4224).

5. WITH PAKISTAN AS A STAUNCH CHINESE ALLY AND AN ASIAN STATE, THE LE VISIT CAN WELL BE USED BY THE PRC TO GET ACROSS THE CHINESE VIEW OF THE POST-CAMBODIAN, POST-VIETNAM SITUATION IN ASIA

AND HELP REASSURE THE PAKISTANIS THAT THE CHINESE INTEND TO TRY  
TO STYMIE SOVIET DESIGNS AND TO GARNER FOR PEKING WHATEVER  
INFLUENCE POSSIBLE IN THE REGION.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK04288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750140-0783  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750429/aaaabbdi.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 HONG KONG 4271, 75 HONG KONG 4424, 75 PEKING 743  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRC VICE PREMIER VISITS PAKISTAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, CH, PK, XC, XD, (LI HSIEN-NIEN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006